Wiki Update: WEEK Five Reflection

This week is the final week of class. I must admit that this has been the toughest class so far due to the team project. While Google Docs was a convenient tool for group collaboration, it was still tough to follow everything and make sense of the direction which we were going due to all of the massive written dialogue. I think that it would have been better if we had incorporated the use of Skype or other tools to communicate and just used Google docs for including project input and completion. Anyway, my team was great! They were very understanding and cooperative. Detronia Robinson was a great team leader who was good at pulling things together.

This week we only had two assigned readings. In those readings, authentic assessment and reinforcing students’ efforts was the focus. Authentic assessment is the measurement of accomplishments that are worthwhile and significant. Web 2.0 tools that can be used for authentic assessment are podcasts (where you can listen to questions and write responses), videoconferencing (work can be viewed and critiqued in real time), social bookmarking (can demonstrate their deep understanding of a topic or not), wiki (contributions to a given project), e-portfolios (log all e-work), and virtual tours (career assessment) (Solomon, 2007). “Reinforcing effort is the most important factor in achievement and enhances students’ understanding of the relationship between effort and achievement by addressing their attitudes and beliefs about learning” (Pitler, 2007). Pitler’s recommendations were to teach students about the importance of effort and have students keep track of their effort and achievement. I have had my students keep track of all of their grades for each subject and showed them how to average them, so they knew what grade they had at all times. Also my students graph their test scores so that they can see improvement (or not) and they know if there is a decrease in grades, that an increase in effort must be made for them to be successful.

Pitler, H., Hubbell, E. Kuhn, M., & Malenoski, K. (2007). *Using technology with classroom instruction that works.* Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Chapter 8, 155-164.

Solomon, G., & Schrum, L. (2007). *Web 2.0: New tools, new schools*. Eugene, OR: International Society for Technology in Education, Chapter 8, 168-176